

androgens than they need. Babies who are not treated will not grow and mature as they should. In severe cases, the baby can die. Treatment involves giving the baby the cortisol and aldosterone his or her body cannot make in the form of medications. This will also stop the baby's body from making too many androgens.

Babies with CAH can grow and develop just like other babies with a little extra care.

For more information, please contact:
South Carolina Department of Health
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Division of Women and
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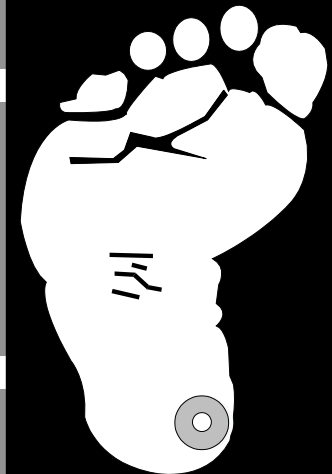


Division of Women and Children's Services

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NEWBORN SCREENING

For
Your
Baby's
Health



What You Should Know
When a Second Test for
CAH Is Needed

Newborn Screening

A small sample of your baby's blood was collected soon after birth and was sent to the DHEC laboratory for testing. This testing is called Newborn Screening. In SC, newborns are tested for several genetic and chemical disorders. These disorders include Phenylketonuria (called PKU), Congenital Hypothyroidism, Galactosemia, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (called CAH), Medium Chain Acyl Co-A Dehydrogenase Deficiency (called MCADD), and Hemoglobinopathies. In some cases, a second test is needed to help your doctor decide if your baby has one of these disorders. In many cases, the second test will be normal. However, if your baby does have one of the newborn screening disorders, early treatment will give him or her the best chance to grow up healthy.

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia

Your baby's first test showed that he or she could possibly have CAH. Here's a brief description of CAH and how it is treated.

CAH is a genetic disorder that is found in around one of every 20,000 babies born each year. When a baby has CAH, he or she cannot produce one or more of the chemicals (called hormones) in the adrenal glands that are needed to keep the body's systems working like they should.

Newborn screening allows the baby's doctor to tell if the baby probably has CAH before he or she gets sick. This lets the doctor give the parents special instructions on how to keep the baby from getting very sick from CAH.

The adrenal glands are some of the organs in the body that make

hormones. Hormones are like chemical messengers that tell other organs or systems in the body what to do to work properly. The outer parts of the adrenal glands make three hormones important to the body's systems.

They are:

- >> **Cortisol**—helps the body maintain an adequate energy supply and blood sugar level
- >> **Aldosterone**—helps the body maintain normal levels of “salt minerals” like sodium and potassium
- >> **Androgens**—male-like hormones that are thought to be important for normal growth for both males and females.

Babies with CAH do not make enough cortisol and, in some cases, aldosterone. They also make more